ISLINGTON COUNCIL

Social Services

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Islington Child Protection Team,
Islington Police Station,
2, Tolpuddle Street,
London N1 0YY

Child Protection and Reviews Service
3 Elwood Street,
London N5 1EB
Tel: [redacted]
Direct Line: [redacted]
Fax: 0171 [redacted]

This matter is being dealt with by [redacted]

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 16th August 1999

Dear [redacted]

Re: Historical Allegations in LBI Children's Homes

Further to our discussions about the above, I have now scanned the inquiry report by Ian White and Kate Hart to attempt to a obtain sense of what had and what had not been investigated prior to 1995 when the report was produced. I have produced the attached notes relating to these allegations; I have anonymised the details but you can cross reference them to the Confidential annex to the White Report.

As you know, I think there is a fundamental question for the police to consider whether or not a wider investigation is warranted. This consideration is further needed in my view as a result of the fact that the Gisburne House investigation has revealed that not all the allegations were known about at the time of the White Report. There is additionally the possibility of some media scrutiny of actions to date should criminal trials take place in these investigations.

You had helpfully indicated that you had raised the above for consideration by Sue Akers. I now need to ask you to discuss this issue with her further and I would of course be happy to assist by attending any preliminary meeting. The Social Services position is that whatever the decision about this, it should be discussed and agreed at senior level between our agencies so that at least a considered decision can be made and referred to in future. I would also say that it would be preferable for this decision to be made prior to the start of the first Gisburne House trial, currently scheduled for 13 September 1999, although likely to be moved from that date.

It would be helpful if you were able to consider whether the allegations listed as having no record of police investigation have in fact ever been so investigated. In addition, the White Report itself states that it was delivered to New Scotland Yard for consideration and I am unclear as to what if any outcome this had or whether there was ever any consideration of the matters contained therein.

Many thanks for your help in considering this very sensitive issue.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

80 HIGHBURY NEW PARK , N5

Police Investigations

Police investigated female staff member around sexual misconduct with ex-resident and the sexual abuse of the boyfriend of another resident (1990-1992) [redacted]

No Record of Investigation

1. involvement of 3 children with pimps/prostitution (1990-91)

2. one allegation of gang rape of child by ???? (1991)

3. allegation of abuse - by staff member (1) ?? (1970's)

4. information from friend of a taxi-driver of abuse at the home for 20 years.

5. Staff member (2) abusing boys through prostitution (1975-93). This was investigated by SSD through disciplinary channels but no action taken.

6 one staff member (3) was a close friend of [redacted] against whom allegations made at 114 Grosvenor Avenue.

7 sexual innuendos by unidentified staff member (4)

8. unidentified staff member (5) referred to child as "bum-boy"

Unclear:

1. investigation into staff member (6) having contact with child in car. Staff member prosecuted for indecent assault in previous employment- case collapsed. No record of any formal disciplinary investigation. Unclear what investigation done re car episode.

NEW PARK HOUSE: NS

Police investigations:

None.

No Record of Police Investigation

1. staff member (1) engaged in sexual and physical abuse of boys including ritualistic features [redacted] Staff member also worked at Gisburne Hous[redacted] Staff member (2) was a [redacted] and a friend of (1). Knew of abuse but took no action.

114 GROSVENOR AVENUE: NS

Police Investigations

1. investigation into staff member (1)-[redacted] Took children home and to the Stables Centre, an activity centre owned by him in East Sussex. Linked also with a police investigation aroud sexual abuse in Cambridgeshire.[redacted] What is unclear is whether the police investigation focused on whether there were concerns of abuse in children's home or focused on his links with others and involvement in child pornography. There are two specific allegations of abuse by him of children at the home. The recent Gisburne enquiries have now established that [redacted] also worked there in the early 1970's [redacted]

2. Police investigation (1997-98) into historical report of sexual abuse of learning disabled child by an unknown staff member.

No Record of Police Investigation:

1. allegation of sexual abuse by staff member (2). This staff member also allowed [redacted] to have contact with a child when

decided this was inappropriate. [redacted]

2. staff member (3) knew of abuse-took no action ?

3.staff member (4) had sexual relationship/abused child- he claimed that relationship began after he left LBI but this not clear. Relationship became sexual when child 15. [redacted]

1 ELWOOD STREET: NS

Police Investigations:

1. staff member (1) was head of home- [redacted] Police investigated several accounts of sexual assault on children (1976-79). [redacted]

2. police have also investigated allegation by one child of sexual assaults by husband of staff member (2) [redacted]

No Record of Police Investigation

1. staff member (2) disciplined by LBI for physical abuse (1970-87) [redacted]

Unclear:

1. one of the victims of abuse by staff member (1) also alleged abuse by staff member (3). SSD file indicates police investigated and staff member prosecuted but personnel files state no police involvement. (1979-81).

CONEWOOD STREET/ PARK PLACE: NS

Police Investigations

1. there was a suggestion recorded in the White Report that Jason Swift was at Conewood St before his murder. However, records do not indicate that he was placed here and he was clearly a Hackney child. Unclear how far this suggestion was explored by police investigating Jason's murder or indeed where the suggestion came from.

[redacted]

No Record of Police Investigation:

1. unnamed staff (2) alleged to be involved in abuse and pornography.

2. staff member (3) alleged to have watched pornographic film with child. [redacted] anotation indicates this could have been a staff member still working for LBI but was no evidence.

3. staff member (4) alleged to abuse boys through prostitution and described boys as his boyfriends. Referred child to organisation for cross-dressing- this child was subject of separate review as one of the cases identified as of concern by the SSI in inspection in 1995. Concers related to 1986-95. Was subject to unsuccesful disciplinary hearing. Recently working for another London borough.

4. allegation by female child of abuse- no details.

5. child visited pimps known to sister at 80 Highbury New Park.

6. sister of former resident has recently claimed he was also sexually abused at Conewood St.

GISBURNE HOUSE: WATFORD, HERTS.

Police Investigations:

1. current investigation involves charges and forthcoming trials of two staff members for sexual abuse of total of 12 children. No evidence of acting in concert. A third former staff member might also be charged. Whilst not evident to the White Report there was police investigation of one of these staff members in the 1970's and both staff members were suspended by LBI in the 1970's from whence all allegations derive. It is now known that in the early 1970's at least 6 staff suspected of abusing children were in fact employed together at Gisburne House.

No Record of Police Investigation:

1. two alleegations of abuse against staff member (4) who was the head of home (1970's). This man has now died.

[redacted]

SHERRINGHAM ROAD:

Police Investigations.

No clear information.

No Record of Police Investigation

1.staff member (1) was superintendent - alleged to have abused boys [redacted]

2. girl alleged abuse by two staff members-unnamed. This girl was also allegedly abused at Conewood Street and Gisburne House but could not be contacted in recent Gisburne enquiries. [redacted]

Unclear:

1. alleged rape of male child by an earlier superintendent (4). In early notes on compensation claim suggestion is made that prosecution could not take place because of mental ilness of victim who continues to receive service from LBI mental heath team. However I can find no reference to the actual police consideration of this allegation.

THE CRESCENT: NS

Police Investigations:

None.

No Record of Police Investigations:

1. staff member (1) sold crack cocaine to other staff members.

2. staff member (2) alleged also to have sold drugs at the home. She also alledgedly had sexual relationship with ? 15- year old boy (boy denied this). Suspended by LBI and left after disciplinary found no evidence for allegations against he [redacted]

staff members (1) and (2) took the boy above to house of friend of another [redacted] another children's home. Child given to boy. Another resident also alleged that these staff members sexually abused residents and involved them in pornography and drugs.

3. unnamed staff member (3) alleged to have had sexual relationship with child and sold crack cocaine.

4. allegation of sexual abuse against staff member (4). This was subject of an independent report for LBI [redacted]

5. concern that the home was visited regularly by [redacted]

18 HIGHBURY GROVE: NS

Police Investigations:

None.

No Record of Police Investigation:

1. concern at numbers of pimps and drug dealers with access to the home. Featured heavily in "Evening Standard" allegations.

2. five children made allegations of sexually inappropriate language and behaviour by staff member (1) who was dismissed following disciplinary investigation.

COLGRAIN: NS

1. [redacted] was suspected of recruiting children to paedophiles and presumably of having himself been abused. Not investigated by police unless as part of organised abuse concerns [redacted]

NON- LBI HOMES:

I have not included the two allegations in this bracket as they do not appear to have any direct connection to the concerns in LBI homes other than in relating to Lbi looked after children.

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

The total number of known police investigations into allegations of abuse at Islington's former children's homes is 7. This is less of course than the number of allegations considered inthose allegations. The Gisburne House enquiry (1997-99) has been the most recent and by far the biggest of investigations. It could yet lead to three trials this year or in 2000.

However the total number of concerns reported in the White Report or elsewhere but apparently not investigated could be as high as 30. Some of these are direct allegations whilst some are concerns and in some cases the names of alleged assailants are not known. These uninvestigated concerns exclude the reports of activities of paedophiles, pimps and drug dealing in the homes, none of which would appear to have been investigated by police.

Amongst those concerns not investigated there could be as many as 26 former staff members who have been allowed to leave LBI without proper police investigation. This figure includes one former staff member now known to have died.

The suggestion of an Islington link with the murder of Jason Swift needs clarification also.

The White Report stated that 32 staff had been identified who were the subject of allegations of abusive or neglectful behaviour and there were 26 children who had been subject to abuse, neglect or poor standards of care while in the care of Islington council. The Gisburne House investigation has of course demonstrated that there were other accounts of abuse not known at the time of the White Report.

[redacted]